

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to Fig. 6.

Attachment: Replacement sheet

REMARKS

Claims 3-6, 9 and 10-12 are currently pending in the present application.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings as failing to include all of the reference signs mentioned in the description. Applicant has amended Fig. 6 to include the reference signs 32a, 33a, 40a and 41a and therefore, this objection should be withdrawn. Similarly, the reference signals 10a, 11a, 10b and 11b have been corrected in this figure.

The Examiner has objected to the amendment as introducing new matter into the disclosure on the basis that pins 32 and 33 are shown as going through the shaft 2 and each pin has two ends inserted into the grooves. Applicant has amended Fig. 6 so that the pins 32, 33 are not shown as going through the shaft and thus, one end of the pin is inserted into one groove. This is clearly supported by the original claims and pending claim 9. Withdrawal of this objection is in order.

The Examiner has rejected claims 3-6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takei in view of Ouchi et al.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection on the following grounds. Takei discloses in Fig. 2 an actuator that is equipped with a circulating ball screw; however, this is much different than the claimed arrangement set forth in amended claim 1.

In particular, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the guide pin of each sleeve is an integral part of the sleeve. In other words, the guide pin is integrally formed with the sleeve and is thus securely attached thereto. This is much different than the circulating ball screw arrangement of the cited Takei reference. In the present arrangement, the sleeve includes at least one guide pin that is secured to the sleeve (since it is an integral part thereof) that engages a preset groove.

In Takei, the plurality of balls 41 are arranged and contained within these balls circulating paths so that the balls 41 circulate accompanying relative rotation of screw shaft 33 and both nuts 35 and 36. The balls 41 are clearly not integrally attached to the sleeve and therefore, do

not function as the claimed guide pins. This claim element is clearly neither disclosed nor shown in the cited reference.

In addition, the secondary Ouchi et al. reference fails to cure this deficiency since it is silent as to the above claim feature.

Reconsideration and allowance of claim 3, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Claims 4-6 and 11 should be allowed as depending from what should be an allowed independent claim 3, as amended.

Claims 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takei in view of Ouchi et al. and Black.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's finding of obviousness on the basis that neither Takei nor Black mentions a gear reduction mechanism in spite of its advantages over a pulley mechanism clearly demonstrates that the use of a gear mechanism cannot be called obvious. Applicant therefore respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takei in view of Black.

Claim 10 should be allowed as depending from what should be an allowed independent claim 9.

New claim 12 recites the embodiment shown in Fig. 4 of the present application. The constructive design of the present transmission for the actuator of the shifting finger 3 (as a toothed gear and/or worm gear) makes it possible to arrange the drive motors variably, namely coaxially relative to the shaft 2 or substantially perpendicular to the axis of the shaft. This possibility for variation cannot be realized with Takei's solution comprising a belt drive. Applicant earnestly solicits consideration and allowance of claim 12 since the claimed motor arrangement is not disclosed or suggested by the references.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

By

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Attachments